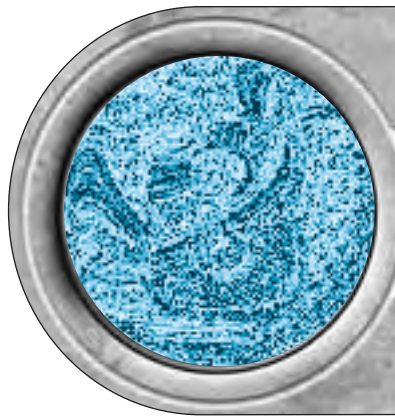




LIVING BEYOND OURSELVES

It's Not About You!

February 19, 2011

1

PREPARING

A. THE SOURCE

Daniel 12:3 (NCV) • “The wise people will shine like the brightness of the sky. Those who teach others to live right will shine like stars forever and ever.”

Matthew 9:37, 38 (NKJV) • “Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’” [Emphasis supplied.]

1 Corinthians 9:22 (NLT) • “When I am with those who are oppressed, I share their oppression so that I might bring them to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone so that I might bring them to Christ.”

Mark 16:15 (NLT) • “And then he told them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere.’”

1 John 4:4 (NKJV) • “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

Revelation 12:11 (NKJV) • “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”

Matthew 10:27, 28 (NKJV) • “Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

B. WHAT'S TO BE SAID ABOUT “LIVING BEYOND OURSELVES”

God has placed a call on every Christian, young and old alike, to share His gospel with “the world. When this task is finished, Jesus will return to take us home. Thus, we are to go into the highways and byways, into the halls and malls to share Christ’s love. God’s love can be shared in words and in more practical, tangible ways like feeding the hungry or helping those who have fallen victim to natural disasters, war and poverty.

This is not always a fun or safe job, but it needs to be done. In addition to the perils and inconveniences that may await us on the outside, we will also have to wrestle with the selfishness that lies on the inside. We must be willing to step out of our comfort zones and do what God has asked with all of our hearts. There were people before us who were willing to serve God and share His message at all costs. It has cost some their lives, but many souls were saved as a result. Now it is our turn to step up. God promises that His Spirit will always be with us to give us courage, boldness, and peace.

C. WHERE WE'RE GOING WITH "LIVING BEYOND OURSELVES"

As a result of this lesson we would like the students to be able to:

1. Understand their personal responsibility to show Christ's love through sharing the gospel and through helping those in need.
2. Discover ways in which they, personally, can participate in missions.
3. Deepen their awareness of religious persecution.

D. MATERIALS NEEDED

Beginning • (Activity A) paper, pens, watch; (Activity B) large world map, index cards, pens, pushpins, blindfold.

Connecting • Bibles, student lessons.

Applying • Pens and handouts.

2 BRIDGING

A. WHERE WE'VE BEEN BEFORE

Allow 10 minutes as students are arriving to:

1. Ask them which verse they chose to learn from Wednesday's portion of their lesson. Give them opportunity to say their verses from memory.
2. Give the students opportunity to "quote" themselves, using what they wrote in the Monday portion of their lesson. Be sure to debrief them about any quotations that might not reflect the Christian life accurately. However, quotations of this nature do not occur in every lesson.
3. Review responses that they and others made to the scenario that was posed in the Sunday portion of their lesson. Discuss the variety of responses, ending with thoughts from last week's What's to Be Said About . . . in the teacher lesson.

If you have a very large group, have adults available to process this section with smaller

groups of students.

B. OTHER SABBATH SCHOOL COMPONENTS

- >> Song service
- >> Mission emphasis (find a link for *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adult* at www.realtimefaith.net)
- >> Service project reports

3 BEGINNING

NOTE TO TEACHER: Put together your own program with options from the categories below—Beginning, Connecting, Applying, and Closing. Please keep in mind, however, that the students need to have an opportunity to be interactive (participate actively *and* with one another) and to study from the Word. At some point you should distribute or call their attention to their student lesson for this week.

A. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • Divide the students into two teams. Have each team select a scribe. The scribes need a pen and a sheet of paper. You will need a watch to keep time.

Get set • Say: Each team will have three minutes to make a list of words that are associated with missions or missionaries. The scribes will record the words. Each word is worth one point if the other team doesn't have it on their list.

Go • Start the time and instruct the students to begin. When the time is up, have each team read their lists. Tally the points to see which team won.

Debriefing • Ask: Why do you think we did this activity? (We are going to talk about missionaries.) Where do you get your information about missions and missionaries? (church) What are the chances that you will become

a missionary? Why do you think that? (Not good. I like where I live, and I'm going to be a lawyer.)

B. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • You will need a large world map that can be attached to a wall. While blindfolded, students will try to pin a prayer on the map where the country they have chosen is located.

Get set • Give each student an index card. Have them look at the map and select a country other than the one they live in. **Say: Write the name of your country at the top of your index card. Underneath the name of the country, write a short prayer for the country. Your prayers can be for the government, the people, missionaries, churches, etc.**

Go • When the students have finished writing their prayers, **say: Today, we are going to play, "Pin the prayer on the country." You have to pin your prayer on the map where your country is located. The only problem is that you will be blindfolded.**

Give each student a pushpin. Blindfold the students one at a time, and have them stand about 8-10 feet from the wall. After they have turned around once, they can try to pin their prayer in the proper place. The object is to see who can get their prayer in or closest to their country.

Debriefing • Ask: Though some of us couldn't get our prayers to our country, we should have no problem getting them to God. What made you choose the country you prayed for? (I've been there. I have family there.) What types of things did you pray for? (People who lost loved ones in earthquakes and wars; for the missionaries to be safe.) Would you like to live in that country? Why or why not? (No, because it is too far from my friends.)

Say: Jesus tells all His followers to share His love and His message with everybody,

everywhere. To do this, we have to move out of our comfort zones.

C. BEGINNING ILLUSTRATION

In your own words, tell the following story:

Joanne was excited she would be traveling to a different country. She was going on a mission trip, but she had brought so much stuff the airline wanted to charge her an extra \$213. She sent some of her luggage home with her dad because she was saving her money for the international shopping spree she was planning. The chaplains thought she was going to be a big problem.

When the group arrived, they were barraged by little orphans selling trinkets. The children looked so hungry and their clothes were torn. It was a very different world from what the students were used to.

In the evenings, the local church would have meetings and people would come from far and near. Some of those orphans from the airport walked several miles to sing songs about Jesus and to get a meal. As Joanne served the children, she said she could see Jesus in their faces, and that made her cry.

When she came home, her suitcases were a lot lighter and they rattled. She had decided to leave all her clothes with the people she met because they needed them more than she did. As a matter of fact, the only thing she brought back, besides her toothbrush, was the suitcase full of trinkets that she bought from all the orphans.

Debriefing • Ask: Why do you think Joanne changed? (She saw how other people lived.) Do you have to go to another country to get compassion like that? (No, there are people to love here.) How can we get that kind of love for all people? (Only from God; by doing for others instead of ourself.)

4 CONNECTING

A. CONNECTING TO THE KINGDOM

Present the following ideas in your own words:

Every kingdom has ambassadors. An ambassador is someone the king sends to a foreign country who represents the king and the kingdom. The Bible says that we are ambassadors for Christ. As an ambassador, or agent, you are to carry out the wishes of the King.

Our King has commanded that we go into the world and tell of His love for all humanity. He has also commanded that we help the hopeless and love the unlovely. He wants us to live not for ourselves, but to live beyond ourselves, unselfishly giving of our time, our money and our lives to those in need.

Ask: Since this call is to every believer, young and old alike, how can a young person be an ambassador and do as the King has asked us by helping others around the world? (Pray for those who are too far to reach. Go on mission trips. Feed the homeless. Visit the sick and those in need.) **There are also risks in being an ambassador. It can be dangerous if the place or people you are sent to don't want you there. What kinds of risks are there for God's ambassadors?** (You could be thrown in jail, you could be in a place where you could get sick.)

B. CONNECTING TO THE LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Ask someone beforehand to read or tell the story from Sabbath's portion of the lesson.

Ask: Would you consider Ahmad a missionary? **Why or why not?** (Yes, because he was sharing Jesus with others.) **If you had to face the same situation as Ahmad, would you have made the same decisions? What would you have done differently?** (I would stay in prison because I don't want to give up my faith.) **What do you think Ahmad meant when he said "It is not about me. There is something, Someone bigger"?** (You can't just think of yourself. You have to think of the big picture, of helping other people to be saved and doing what God says even if it is dangerous.)

C. CONNECTING TO LIFE

Pose the following scenario:

You are on a mission trip with your youth group. You and your partner go from house to house sharing Christian books and inviting people to church meetings in the evening. At one house, a woman becomes very angry with you for talking about Jesus. She says the last person who talked to her about Jesus is in jail. She threatens that the same will happen to you if you don't stop this Jesus talk in her city. When you get back to camp, your partner acts sick so she doesn't have to go out anymore, because she is scared.

Ask: What would you do—join her and stay back at camp or continue to share the gospel? **Why?** (I would tell my sponsor what happened, but I would still go out.) **What would influence your decision the most?** (I know that the group would pray for my safety.) **What, if anything, could make you want to continue sharing even if it was possible you would be put in jail?** (encouragement from friends, praying to God for strength)

Have students take turns reading aloud the verses from Wednesday's portion of the lesson.

Ask: What do these verses have to do with our mission to the world? (We have a duty to share Jesus, even if we get in trouble for it. They tell us that God will be with us even in bad situations.) **Colossians 4:5 tells us to be wise in the way we act with people who are not believers, making the most of every opportunity. How would you show wisdom in dealing with the woman who threatened you because you were witnessing?** (Try not to make her more upset by arguing with her, but still sharing your books with others in the community.) **How could you make the most of this opportunity?** (Praying that God would move her heart and praying for or with the individual that had to go to jail for sharing their faith.) **If you were in prison for sharing your faith, which verse from the lesson would mean the most to you and why?**

Present the following ideas in your own words:

The threat of jail or getting beaten up for telling people about Jesus is very real. People all over the world are being persecuted for their faith. Governments are going out of their way to make sure new Christian churches are not started. **Say:** Let's read **Matthew 24:14** to find out why that is so troublesome. Have a student read the verse aloud.

Ask: What must happen for Jesus to come? (The gospel has to be preached to the whole world.) **What do we have to do to make this happen in places where it is against the law to preach the gospel?** (We still must find a way to share it with people.)

5 APPLYING

A. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

This exercise will help the students think of practical ways to impact their community. Each student will need a handout from p. 94 and a pen.

Present the following ideas in your own words:

There is a part for each of us to play in making this a better world and helping people know about Jesus. Right now, you are going to figure out your part. Take some time to fill out this handout and we will share our answers when you have completed it. As you fill this out, keep in mind Jesus' command to share His gospel with those who don't know it.

When they have finished, **ask:** **What type of problems did you try to tackle?** (homelessness, crime, poverty) **What were some of the solutions you came up with?** (Make sandwiches to give out in the park; donate my allowance to a shelter.)

Go around the class and let each person share what task they underlined for question seven. After each student has answered, **ask:**

What could hinder you from accomplishing your task? (too much homework, no money, no car) **What will help you do it?** (Someone to remind me. My mom gives me a ride.) **How committed are you to actually doing it?**

B. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Define a missionary.
2. What are some ways you can be a missionary without leaving the city you live in?
3. Why do you think God is leaving evangelism, or sharing the gospel, up to us?
4. What are the risks of being a missionary in a faraway land?
5. What are the risks of being a missionary in your neighborhood or at school?
6. What are some things in your life that keep you from witnessing like God wants?
7. How will you become the missionary God wants you to become?

5 CLOSING

SUMMARY

In your own words, conclude with the following ideas:

The Bible says that when this gospel is preached to the whole world, the end will come. The time of Jesus' return is somewhat dependent on how long it takes us to do what Christ has asked. As ambassadors for Christ, we must go out to our neighborhoods, cities, and to faraway places and make sure everyone knows that Jesus died for their sins, so that they can live with Him.

This is a risky task. The world is often hostile and mean to Christ's ambassadors. This should not stop us. We should trust in God's promise and protection, that He will never leave us alone. We must choose to no longer live for ourselves, but we must live for Christ and reach out beyond ourselves.

FOR LESSON EIGHT:

THIS HANDOUT IS FOR THE APPLICATION ACTIVITY.

Mission Possible

1. List five problems that exist in your community.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

2. Circle three that your church could do something about.

3. Underline two of those that you could help with.

4. Rewrite here one of the ones you chose:

5. List five things that could be done about the problem.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

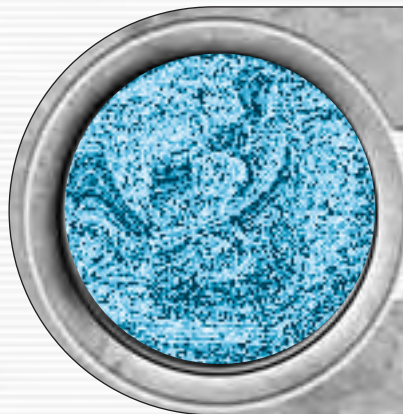
d. _____

e. _____

6. Circle two that you would be able to do.

7. Underline the one that you will do.

(Adapted from the Ideas Library.)



STUDENT LESSON

LIVING BEYOND OURSELVES

It's Not About You!

February 19, 2011

>>KEY TEXT: Choose one of the texts from Wednesday's portion of the lesson. Write it here and memorize it this week.



IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU!

(What connection do you think the following illustration has with the Bible texts on the other page?)

"Guess what I have," Ahmad said, opening his backpack and showing his two friends a magazine they were sure to get in trouble for. Their eyes got big. "Meet me in my garage after school." They could hardly wait. This was beginning to be a habit—the sneaking around, the secret meetings, and the full-color magazines.

Some of the boys were so captivated, they told their friends. Word continued to seep out and more and more boys would join Ahmad in his garage to take a peak. Nevertheless, they were careful about who they told, because they knew that they could get in serious trouble for looking at such a thing.

One time, someone was waiting for Ahmad in his garage, but he didn't know it. As usual, the boys came over and they all gathered around to see the magazine.

"Aha! You are all caught! You know you should not have this. And you definitely should not be reading it. You are all going to jail!" The officer gathered them together, and shoved the boys into a police van. They were driven downtown for questioning. One by one, they were interrogated.

"Where did he get the magazine from? Why were you reading such trash? Why did you tell others about it? Don't you know this stuff is against the law?"

One by one, they were questioned, but no-body said a word. Their parents showed up. They were angry and ashamed. The boys were shuffled into a cell with thieves and murderers to scare them. They were told they would be going on trial and they could spend the rest of their lives in jail if they didn't start talking. The boys were unmoved.

Ahmad's mother could not understand why they would give their lives away for a silly magazine. "It's not a silly magazine mother. It has power. It talks about God and His Son Jesus, and how He came to save us from our sins. He did not deny us, and now, even though we might have to spend our lives in jail, we will not deny Him."

His mother pleaded, "Ahmad, stop this foolish talk. You have your whole life ahead of you. Don't throw it away."

"I won't, Mother," Ahmad assured her. "Since I have learned about my Savior, I now have begun to live, and I realize it is not about me. There is something . . . Someone bigger. I will tell everyone I can about Him, whether it is at school, in town, or in jail."



Sunday

HERE'S WHAT I THINK

Several churches in your community have donated food, money, and clothing to go overseas. Your youth group has been chosen to distribute these supplies in a Muslim country. The government says that while you are there you cannot talk about Christianity or Jesus. Some people think the trip should be cancelled. They feel it is not a mission trip if you cannot share Jesus.

Do you think the trip should be cancelled? Why or why not? Can you have a mission trip without sharing Jesus? Would you still go and share Jesus even though the government told you not to?

Log on to www.guidemagazine.org/rtf to post your responses. Be up-front and honest. Say what you think.



Monday

WHAT ARE THEY TRYING TO SAY?

Different people, different opinions. Some of the quotations below represent the views of true kingdom citizens; others may not. Can you tell the difference? How do these statements compare with what God is saying in His Word? After reviewing the texts in the God Says . . . portion of the lesson, write a statement that captures your belief. Be prepared to quote yourself at Sabbath School.

>>“Every heart without Christ is a mission field; every heart with Christ is a missionary.”—*Dick Hillis, 20th-century U.S. missionary to Asia.*

>>“Missionaries are going to reform the world whether it wants to or not.”—*Oscar Wilde, 19th-century Irish writer.*

>>“I detest converts almost as much as I do missionaries.”—*H. L. Mencken, 20th-century U.S. editor.*

>>“Life becomes harder for us when we live for others, but it also becomes richer and hap-

pier.”—*Albert Schweitzer, 20th-century French theologian, physician and missionary.*

>>“How can I love Jesus/When I’ve never seen His face/Yeah, I see you dying/And I turn and walk away?”—*Kirk Franklin in Lean on Me.*

>>“What are you doing, dear youth, to make known to others how important it is to take the word of God for a guide, to keep the commandments of Jehovah?”—*Ellen White, 19th-century inspired author and church cofounder.*

Write your own quotation.

WHAT I SAY IS . . .



Tuesday

SO WHAT?

In a world of “got to get mine” and “me first,” God calls for us to look a little farther. If we would take some time to get off the phone, change the channel, or get out of the mirror, we would see that there is a whole world out there. And many of its people do not know about Jesus and the joy He brings. This is true in faraway lands and right in your school and neighborhood.

The problem is that the world is becoming increasingly hostile to Jesus’ “freaks.” It is just not cool to be a Christian. Furthermore, we could get in trouble with the law or our school for sharing our faith in certain situations. So why risk it?

People desperately need to know about Jesus. And Jesus has asked us to tell them. (I’m not going to tell the King of the universe NO, are you?) It might not be the easiest, coolest, or even safest task, but we have to think beyond ourselves and do it. And when we do, God has promised to give us power, protection, and a prize.

You could go on living life the way you have been, but it just won't be as fun or fulfilling as living life the way God wants you to.

God's love can be shared in words and in more practical, tangible ways such as feeding the hungry or helping those who have fallen victim to natural disasters, war, and poverty. When we kick our commitment to God up a notch, He kicks up the power and allows us to see miracles that others only hear about during mission story time. When you decide to live beyond yourself, you decide to really live!



Wednesday
GOD SAYS . . .

>>Matthew 24:14 (NKJV)

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."

>>Romans 15:20 (NLT)

"My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else."

>>Colossians 4:5, 6 (NCV)

"Be wise in the way you act with people who are not believers. Use your time in the best way you can. When you talk, you should always be kind and wise. Then you will be able to answer everyone in the way you should."

>>1 Peter 3:14 (NLT)

"But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't be afraid and don't worry."

>>1 Chronicles 16:23, 24 (NLT)

"Let the whole earth sing to the Lord! Each day proclaim the good news that he saves. Publish his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does."

>>1 Peter 4:16 (LB)

"But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian.

Praise God for the privilege of being in Christ's family and being called by his wonderful name!"

>>1 Peter 5:10 (LB)

"After you have suffered a little while, our God, who is full of kindness through Christ, will give you his eternal glory. He personally will come and pick you up, and set you firmly in place, and make you stronger than ever."

>>2 Corinthians 4:8, 9 (KJV)

"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed."

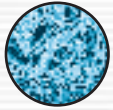


Thursday
**WHAT DOES THIS
HAVE TO DO WITH ME?**

Wanted: an adventurous, brave young person who will answer the call of the GOSpel, to GO! Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to go into the highways and byways, the halls and the malls, and share Jesus. You can share Him as you dare to be different and live a life pleasing to God. You can share Him as you tell others about Jesus when the subject comes up. You can share Him as you make it come up.

This call to share is not just with your friends and neighbors, but it may take you to faraway, exotic and not so exotic places. Everybody needs to hear the gospel, and many need your help. There are so many people who have not been as blessed as you are. For some people, you will be the blessing. Giving of your time, your money, and your heart will be worth more to them than anything money can buy.

It is not going to be easy, but God promises to send His Holy Spirit to give you the words to say. He promises that His love will take your fear away and His grace will make up whatever you lack. You just have to be bold enough to trust Him and crazy enough to obey Him! If you do, God will make it more than worth your while.



Friday

HOW DOES IT WORK?

It is time to get started with your mission work right now. Although there are some places you can't reach on your feet, you can reach them on your knees. Take some time and write a prayer for a place where the people need the gospel. Pray for those who are being persecuted for their faith. Also, pray that God will show you how He wants you to work for Him.

